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1		TABLE OF CONTENTS
2	I.	BACKGROUND
3	II.	DEFINITIONS
4	III.	<u>JURISDICTION</u>
5	IV.	PARTIES BOUND
6	٧.	REIMBURSEMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS
7	VI.	COVENANTS NOT TO SUE AND RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS 18
8	VII.	CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION
9	VIII.	NHOU SITE ACCESS
10	IX.	ACCESS TO INFORMATION
11	Х.	RETENTION OF RECORDS
12	XI.	NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS
13	XII.	RETENTION OF JURISDICTION
14	XIII.	LODGING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT 34
15	XIV.	SECTION HEADINGS
16	xv.	SIGNATORIES
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		·
27		
28		

## I. BACKGROUND

COMPLAINTS. On October 26, 1993, the United States of Α. America ("United States"), on behalf of the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), and, on October 29, 1993, the State of California ("State"), on behalf of the State Department of Toxic Substances Control (formerly, the Toxic Substances Control Program of the State Department of Health Services), filed complaints in this matter pursuant to Sections 107 and 113 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("CERCLA"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613. Both the United States and the State ("Plaintiffs") filed, prior to the lodging of this Consent Decree, amended complaints, which add additional defendants to the original complaints. In the amended complaints, the Plaintiffs seek recovery of response costs incurred by the Plaintiffs in connection with actions taken pursuant to CERCLA in response to releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances from the Defendants' facilities in the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin ("Basin") and at the North Hollywood Operable Unit Site ("NHOU Site") within the Basin.

## В. SITE DESCRIPTION.

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Basin. The San Fernando Valley Superfund Sites ("SFV Sites") are located in the eastern half of the Basin, between the San Gabriel and the Santa Monica Mountains, in Los Angeles County, California. EPA has divided the SFV Sites in two different ways. For the purpose of placing the SFV Sites on the National Priorities List ("NPL"), EPA divided the SFV Sites into 28 | the following four areas based on the location of drinking water

well fields that were known to be contaminated by volatile organic compounds ("VOCs") in 1984: Area 1 (North Hollywood Area), Area 2 (Crystal Springs Area), Area 3 (Verdugo Basin), and Area 4 (Pollock Area). Once more was known about the extent of groundwater contamination and for the purpose of accelerating the investigation and cleanup of the SFV Sites, EPA divided the SFV Sites into the following five Operable Units ("OUs"): North Hollywood (the NHOU Site), Burbank, Glendale North, Glendale South, and Pollock.

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- 2. NHOU Site. This Consent Decree focuses on the NHOU Site, originally listed as part of the San Fernando Valley Area 1/North Hollywood Area NPL site. The NHOU Site is comprised of the areal extent of hazardous substance groundwater contamination that is presently located in the vicinity of the North Hollywood Well Field and includes any areas to which and from which such hazardous substance groundwater contamination migrates.
- NATURE OF SITE CONTAMINATION. Tests conducted in the C. early 1980s to determine the presence of certain industrial chemicals in the State's drinking water revealed extensive VOC contamination in the Basin's groundwater. The primary contaminants of concern were and are the solvents trichloroethene ("TCE") and tetrachloroethene ("PCE"), widely used in a variety of industries including metal plating, machinery degreasing, and dry cleaning. By August 1985, groundwater from 27 of the 35 production wells in the North Hollywood Well Field alone exceeded the Federal Maximum Contaminant Level ("MCL") for TCE. MCLs are 28 drinking water standards established under the Safe Drinking

Water Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 300f et seq. Other VOC contaminants in the Basin have also been detected above their MCLs. As a result of this groundwater contamination, many production wells have been taken out of service, despite the fact that the Basin's groundwater has been used to supply the domestic water needs of approximately 800,000 people. According to recent estimates, the plumes of TCE contamination above the MCL in the Basin's groundwater extend over an area eleven miles long and as great as three miles wide.

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- D. NPL LISTING. In June 1986, EPA placed the SFV Sites, which include the NHOU Site, on the NPL (see 51 Federal Register 21054). The NPL is promulgated pursuant to Section 105 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9605, and is a list of the most seriously contaminated hazardous substances sites in the country (see 40 C.F.R. Part 300, Appendix B). As stated in Section I.B.1 above, the SFV Sites listed on the NPL are Area 1 (North Hollywood Area), Area 2 (Crystal Springs Area), Area 3 (Verdugo Basin), and Area 4 (Pollock Area). The original boundaries of the SFV Sites were based on the location of the drinking water well fields that were known to be contaminated by VOCs in 1984. Groundwater data collected since 1984 show that VOC groundwater contamination extends beyond the original boundaries drawn at the time the SFV Sites were placed on the NPL.
- E. <u>OU DESIGNATION</u>. In 1985, EPA determined that the most effective way of dealing with the spreading groundwater contamination in the Basin was to divide the SFV Sites into OUs. Each OU represents a discrete, interim remedial action that will inhibit the migration of contamination in the groundwater prior

to the completion of a Basin-wide Remedial Investigation ("RI") and Feasibility Study ("FS") and selection of any Basin-wide remedial actions. As stated in Section I.B.1 above, EPA has identified the following five OUs: North Hollywood (the NHOU Site), Burbank, Glendale North, Glendale South, and Pollock. EPA has issued Record of Decision ("ROD") documents selecting interim remedial actions for four of these OUs: NHOU Site (1987), Burbank OU (1989), and Glendale North and South OUs (1993).

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- F. NHOU SITE FS AND ROD. In November 1986, pursuant to a cooperative agreement with EPA and the State of California, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power ("LADWP") completed an OU FS for the NHOU Site. After providing an opportunity for the public to comment on the completed OU FS, in September 1987, EPA issued a ROD for the NHOU Site. The interim remedial action selected in the 1987 NHOU ROD is fifteen years of groundwater extraction and treatment.
- G. NHOU SITE INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION. In 1989, pursuant to another cooperative agreement with EPA and the State of California, LADWP constructed the NHOU Site groundwater extraction and treatment facilities. These facilities pump out contaminated groundwater, remove the contaminants from the groundwater, and convey the treated groundwater to LADWP's pump station for distribution to the public. Consistent with Section 104(c)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(c)(3), EPA paid for ninety percent and the State paid for ten percent of the construction costs of the extraction and treatment facilities; and EPA is paying for ninety percent and the State is responsible for paying ten percent of the operating costs of the NHOU Site interim

remedial action. Pursuant to its cooperative agreement with EPA and the State of California, LADWP will continue to operate and maintain the NHOU Site Interim Remedial Action.

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- BASIN-WIDE GROUNDWATER AND SOIL CLEANUP ACTIVITIES. Н. Remediation of groundwater in the Basin is a collaborative undertaking of EPA, the State, LADWP, and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region ("RWQCB"). December 1992, pursuant to another cooperative agreement with EPA, LADWP completed the Phase 1 Basin-wide groundwater RI. EPA has begun preparing a Basin-wide groundwater FS. In addition to groundwater investigation and remediation activities, EPA, in conjunction with the State and RWQCB, has conducted and continues to conduct soil investigations at individual facilities throughout the Basin to uncover potential sources of groundwater contamination. In September 1989, EPA entered into a cooperative agreement with RWQCB to provide funds to augment the State's program to investigate sources of groundwater contamination in the Basin.
- PLAINTIFFS' ALLEGATION OF DEFENDANTS' LIABILITY. I. Plaintiffs allege that: (i) the past, present, or potential migrations of "hazardous substances," as defined in Section 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), from the Defendants' "facilities," as defined in Section 101(9) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(9), constitute actual or threatened "releases," as defined in Section 101(22) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(22); (ii) the Defendants are persons subject to liability under Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a); (iii) the releases or threatened 28 | releases of hazardous substances from the Defendants' facilities

have caused the Plaintiffs to incur and to continue to incur "response" costs, within the meaning of Section 101(25) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(25); and (iv) the actions taken by the Plaintiffs in response to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances from the Defendants' facilities were not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan.

Defendants that have entered into this Consent Decree ("Settling Defendants") do not admit and expressly deny any liability to the Plaintiffs arising out of the transactions or occurrences alleged in the amended complaints or as set forth above. The Plaintiffs and the Settling Defendants agree that neither this Consent Decree, nor the entry into settlement, nor any payments pursuant to this Consent Decree shall constitute or be construed as a finding or an admission, adjudication or acknowledgement of any fact or law, or of any liability, fault or wrongdoing, or evidence of such, or an admission of violation of any law, rule or regulation by Settling Defendants nor as an estoppel or waiver of any defenses of Settling Defendants except as provided in Section VI.G of this Consent Decree.

## K. PURPOSE.

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1. Pursuant to a cooperative agreement with EPA and the State of California, LADWP is implementing the NHOU Site Interim Remedial Action selected in the 1987 NHOU ROD. The purpose of this Consent Decree is to avoid prolonged litigation and to provide for the Settling Defendants' payment of specified amounts of the past and future response costs for the NHOU Site Interim Remedial Action selected in the 1987 NHOU ROD and of the

past costs of Basin-wide investigations relating to their facilities located at the NHOU Site in full and complete satisfaction of any and all claims against Settling Defendants for such costs.

- 2. The parties to this Consent Decree ("Parties") recognize that the Settling Defendants' payment represents only a part of the total cost of the NHOU Site Interim Remedial Action selected in the 1987 NHOU ROD and of the past costs of Basin-wide investigations relating to the facilities located at the NHOU Site.
- 3. In entering into this Consent Decree, the Plaintiffs have considered the circumstances of the releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances in the Basin, the involvement of the Settling Defendants in the ownership and/or operation of facilities located at the NHOU Site and the willingness and capacity of Settling Defendants and the other Defendants to resolve this matter.
- 4. The Parties agree, and the Court by entering this Consent Decree finds, that this Consent Decree has been negotiated by the Parties in good faith and implementation of this Consent Decree will expedite the cleanup of the NHOU Site and will avoid prolonged and complicated litigation between the Parties, and that this Consent Decree is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest.

THEREFORE, with the consent of the parties to this Consent Decree, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

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## II. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>

Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this Consent Decree that are defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA shall have the meaning assigned to them in CERCLA or in such regulations. Whenever terms listed below are used in this Consent Decree or in any appendices attached hereto and incorporated hereunder, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Basin-wide Response Costs" shall mean all costs that the Plaintiffs have incurred or may incur for Basin-wide/non-operable unit specific investigations or other non-operable unit specific response actions.
- B. "CERCLA" shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 et seq.
- C. "Certification of Completion" shall mean EPA's certification pursuant to Section 122(f)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9622(f)(3), that all remedial actions have been completed that relate to the NHOU Site in accordance with the requirements of the National Contingency Plan and any applicable Record of Decision.
- D. "Consent Decree" or "Second Partial Consent Decree" shall mean this Decree and any attached appendices. In the event of conflict between this Decree and any appendix, this Decree shall control. "First Consent Decree" shall mean the Partial Consent Decree in this action lodged with this Court on March 14,

1996 and entered by this Court on August 8, 1996.

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E. "Day" shall mean a calendar day. In computing any period of time under this Consent Decree, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal Holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.

- F. "EPA" shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any successor departments or agencies of the United States.
- G. "Future Basin-wide Response Costs" shall mean all Basin-wide response costs that EPA has incurred or will incur after April 30, 1992 and that the State has incurred or will incur after December 31, 1993.
- H. "Interest," in accordance with Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), shall mean interest at the rate specified for interest on investments of the Hazardous Substance Superfund established pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 9507. In calculating interest, Plaintiffs may compound on a monthly or annual basis.
- I. "Interim Remedial Action" shall mean the interim remedial action selected in the 1987 NHOU ROD.
- J. "North Hollywood Operable Unit" or "NHOU Site" shall mean the areal extent of hazardous substance groundwater contamination that is presently located in the vicinity of the North Hollywood Well Field and includes any areas to which and from which such hazardous substance groundwater contamination migrates. EPA has determined that each of the Settling Defendants named in its amended complaints has owned and/or operated and/or currently owns and/or operates facilities that